

MAR 08 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

DESIGNATING APRIL AS ORGAN DONOR AWARENESS MONTH IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, April is National Organ Donor Awareness Month; and

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3 WHEREAS, organ donation is the gift of a kidney, heart,
4 lung, liver, pancreas, or other vital organ for medical
5 transplantation to others in serious need; and

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7 WHEREAS, organ transplantation is regarded as a standard
8 medical treatment for a number of medical conditions and
9 diseases, including chronic kidney disease, and tens of
10 thousands of individuals receive life-saving organ transplants
11 each year; and

12
13 WHEREAS, survival rates following an organ transplant are
14 impressive, including one-year survival rates of ninety-six
15 percent for kidney transplant recipients, more than eighty-two
16 percent for heart transplant recipients, and more than eighty
17 percent for liver transplant recipients; and

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19 WHEREAS, donated vital organs from one person can save the
20 lives of up to eight people in need of an organ transplant; and

21
22 WHEREAS, nationwide, an average of twenty people die each
23 day due to a lack of available organs for transplant; and

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25 WHEREAS, despite the growing number of successful
26 transplant operations each year, more than one hundred thousand
27 people nationwide remain on organ donation waiting lists; and

28
29 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, more than four hundred thirty people of
30 various ethnicities are currently awaiting life-saving organ
31 transplants; and

32
33 WHEREAS, Hawaii's population is composed of sixty percent
34 Asian, Pacific Islander, Hispanic, and African-American



1 individuals, and these ethnic populations are at the greatest
2 risk for end-stage organ failure; and
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4 WHEREAS, the majority of transplant candidates in Hawaii
5 are awaiting a donor kidney, and the majority of the transplant
6 operations performed in Hawaii are kidney transplants; and
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8 WHEREAS, individuals may become organ donors by registering
9 with a state donor registry, indicating "yes" to organ donations
10 on their driver's license, expressing a desire to become an
11 organ donor to family, friends, physicians, and faith leaders,
12 and filling out and signing an organ donor card; and
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14 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, individuals may easily register to
15 become organ donors via the Donate Life Hawaii Registry or at a
16 county motor vehicle registry location; and
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18 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, there is a great need to raise
19 awareness regarding the importance of and need for organ
20 donation; now, therefore,
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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
23 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the
24 Legislature recognizes April as Organ Donor Awareness Month in
25 Hawaii; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all residents of Hawaii are
28 encouraged to learn more about kidney disease, its risks, and
29 healthy behaviors that can reduce the risk of chronic kidney and
30 kidney-related diseases such as diabetes; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all residents of Hawaii are
33 encouraged to learn more about organ donation and discuss organ
34 donation with their families, physicians, and religious leaders;
35 and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the President of the
39 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
40 President and Chief Executive Officer of Legacy of Life Hawaii,
41 and the President and Chief Executive Officer of the National
42 Kidney Foundation of Hawaii.



S.R. NO. 135

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